

RECEIVED 11.9. NOV 14 1967

November 14, 1967

The Honorable James O. Eastland
The United States Senate
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Senator Eastland:

This letter is in behalf of H. R. 2138 which was passed by the House of Representatives on November 6, 1967. The Honorable Michael A. Feighan, member of the House Judiciary Committee and Chairman of its Subcommittee No. 1 (Immigration), and the Honorable Peter A. Rodino, Jr., member of the House Judiciary Committee and Immigration Subcommittee, who sponsored H. R. 2138, told me last week that they would be talking to you concerning this Bill, and suggested that I should get in touch with you directly.

As Vice President of Free Europe, Inc., and Director of Radio Free Europe during the period 1961-1965, I have been particularly interested in Mr. Rodino's Bill, H. R. 2138. This Bill would permit naturalization of certain key employees of Radio Free Europe who have for many years necessarily been stationed at RFE's broadcasting center in Munich, Germany after previous lawful admission to the United States for permanent residence. Because the American management of RFE needed to have these employees stationed in Europe, they have been unable to meet the United States physical presence requirements for naturalization. Under H. R. 2138, a minimum of five years of employment by RFE would give constructive residence credit for this special group.

The beneficiaries of the Bill are anti-communist exiles from countries now under communist rule. They chose to live in freedom and they wish to become American citizens, and particularly to have American

-2-

The Honorable James O. Eastland

November 14, 1967

re-entry permits. They are people of talent and proven ability who have made notable contributions in their present work. Among them are former diplomats, parliamentarians, academicians, linguists, writers, editors, professional people and businessmen.

During my years in Munich as Director of RFE, I was in daily contact with these East European exiles who aspire to become U. S. citizens, and would have become so long ago had their work for RFE not required them to remain abroad. They have made very real contributions to the cause of freedom for the people of their countries, and in the interests of the United States. They would quickly become valuable members of any American community.

Passage of this Bill is highly important to the continued effective operation of RFE. As each year goes by, the problems and family pressures related to the gaining of U. S. citizenship by these key employees become more and more acute. They want to carry on their RFE work and we very much need them. But without the constructive residence granted by this Bill, they would have to leave RFE to return to the U. S. to achieve citizenship. Recruitment of comparable people to replace them is not possible. We have already lost some key people for whom the family pressures for citizenship and future security became too great. Further losses would have a very adverse effect upon the high quality of RFE's operations. Thus we are most anxious to see Senate passage of the Bill this year.

We will be very glad to furnish any further information that might be needed. I look forward to the opportunity of seeing you and answering any questions you might have.

With kindest regards and high respect.

Sincerely yours,

C. Rodney Smith
Major General, USA, Ret.
Vice President, FE, Inc.

CRS:11